



General Assembly

**House Joint  
Resolution No. 114**

January Session, 2009

LCO No. 4494

\*04494\_\_\_\_\_GAE\*

Referred to Committee on Government Administration and  
Elections

Introduced by:  
(GAE)

**RESOLUTION PROPOSING AN AMENDMENT TO THE STATE  
CONSTITUTION CONCERNING THE BALANCED BUDGET  
AMENDMENT.**

Resolved by this Assembly:

1 That the following be proposed as an amendment to the  
2 Constitution of the State, which, when approved and adopted in the  
3 manner provided by the Constitution, shall, to all intents and  
4 purposes, become a part thereof:

5 Article twenty-eighth of the amendments to the Constitution is  
6 amended to read as follows:

7 (a) The amount of general budget expenditures authorized for any  
8 [fiscal year] ten-year period shall not exceed the estimated amount of  
9 revenue for such [fiscal year] period.

10 (b) The general assembly shall not authorize an increase in general  
11 budget expenditures for any fiscal year above the amount of general  
12 budget expenditures authorized for the previous fiscal year by a  
13 percentage which exceeds the greater of the percentage increase in

14 personal income or the percentage increase in inflation, unless the  
15 governor declares an emergency or the existence of extraordinary  
16 circumstances and at least three-fifths of the members of each house of  
17 the general assembly vote to exceed such limit for the purposes of such  
18 emergency or extraordinary circumstances. The general assembly shall  
19 by law define "increase in personal income", "increase in inflation" and  
20 "general budget expenditures" for the purposes of this section and may  
21 amend such definitions, from time to time, provided general budget  
22 expenditures shall not include expenditures for the payment of bonds,  
23 notes or other evidences of indebtedness. The enactment or  
24 amendment of such definitions shall require the vote of three-fifths of  
25 the members of each house of the general assembly.

26 (c) Any unappropriated surplus shall be used to fund a budget  
27 reserve fund or for the reduction of bonded indebtedness; or for any  
28 other purpose authorized by at least three-fifths of the members of  
29 each house of the general assembly.

30 RESOLVED: That the foregoing proposed amendment to the  
31 Constitution be continued to the next session of the General Assembly  
32 elected at the general election to be held on November 2, 2010, and  
33 published with the law passed at the present session, or be presented  
34 to the electors at the general election to be held on November 2, 2010,  
35 whichever the case may be, according to article sixth of the  
36 amendments to the Constitution. The designation of said proposed  
37 amendment to be used on the voting machine ballot labels and  
38 absentee ballots at such election shall be "Shall the Constitution of the  
39 State be amended to authorize the amount of general budget  
40 expenditures not exceed the estimated revenue for a ten-year period  
41 rather than a one-year period?"